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CPYRGHT **Confusion in High Places**

Just as the Democratic national convention was about to go under the ether at Atlantic City, an electrifying development brought the patient bolt upright and almost made the surgeons drop their scalpels.

Somewhat, some way, the news leaked out that the Central Intelligence Agency was circulating a document which said two things about South Viet Nam. One was that a victory over the Communists there is doubtful, and that it may become necessary eventually to make a neutralization deal.

The big operators on Pennsylvania avenue emitted a shriek of denial that could have been heard, by the unaided human ear, all the way to Virginia Beach.

This, they said, does not represent administration policy; it does not represent U. S. official policy.

Since then, in all of the hullabaloo of the Atlantic City charade, there has been no further word about the CIA document or its author, identified as one Willard Mathias of the CIA's Board of National Estimates. (Hallel-o-o, there, Willard, are you still with us?)

At any rate, this 45 - page paper that was prepared by Mr. Mathias,

was written earlier this year for the purpose of helping the CIA make an assessment of developments in various parts of the world.

It was circulated among various governmental agencies with a notation that it had the general approval of the CIA's board of estimates but that the board had made no attempt to reach complete agreement on every point contained in the paper.

The Johnson administration which has been having nightmares over Barry Goldwater's "no win" charges, awakened to this one and found it was real.

In a fit of denial, the administration's spokesmen said the paper never had been presented to, nor considered, by the National Security Council nor by the U. S. Intelligence Estimate Board.

It was just being circulated among the other agencies of government for all of them to consider apparently without the awareness of the president or his top-level advisers.

The conclusion from all of this is that in Washington, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing; or vice versa.

When they have a station break on television, why not have interesting commercials that give us one?